

CLALLAM CONNECTION

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SAYING GOODBYE

This September we will be saying good bye to a good friend, Willie Burer. She will be retiring September 17th. Willie has worked for Clallam County Developmental Disabilities Section for the past 13 years. And yes, those 13 years have been in the **basement** of the courthouse where there are no windows.

Willie has seen a lot of growth and a lot of changes in the Developmental Disability world in those 13 years. The Connection recently sat down with Willie to talk about her thoughts and feelings about Clallam County's Developmental Disabilities world and about retirement.



One of the biggest changes Willie has witnessed is the switch from people staying at home or working in sheltered workshops to being employed out in the community. This has been a great change as people are moving from poverty or isolation into the public with jobs or volunteering. They are making connections with co workers, their talents are shining and they are giving back to their community. People feel good about the changes and about themselves.

One of the reasons people work is to make financial choices, right? Willie has worked for many years with the goal of retiring early and getting out into the community and enjoying it. Well now, she is going to do just that.

Willie plans on taking the first few weeks off just relaxing, sleeping in late and reading the stack of books she has. Next in line, she is thinking about raising some goats. She has a lot of land and could use some brush eating by the goats. Willie has also taken a lot of classes in cheese making and may try her hand with goat cheese.

Willie is committed to staying connected to her community. She will be out there volunteering and she's looking forward to seeing us out and about. In the meantime, she reminds us to be **Kind**.

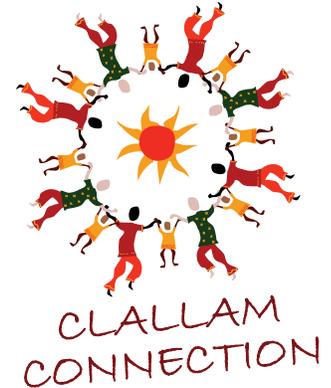
Take Care Willie, we'll miss you!

GUESS WHO HAS HAD A BIRTHDAY!?

The *Clallam Connection* turns ONE with this edition. A year ago we told you our goal was to help us stay connected: connected to employment issues, connected to local happenings and connected to each other. We were feeling the crunch of budget cuts and changes. We hoped that staying connected would help us through the tough times. So a year later here is what we are about:

- Who we are - Clallam County Developmental Disabilities
- What we are – On-Line Newsletter
- Where – On-line at www.clallam.net/hhs/connection.html
(Limited printed copies available with request)
- When – Every Other Month, Starting September 2009

The Connection continues to change as we develop and grow. We welcome and consider all suggestions. You are who this paper is written for, you are our connection!



ADA ANNIVERSARY

Did you know that July 26th marked the 20th anniversary of the ADA? What is the ADA you ask? ADA stands for Americans with Disabilities Act. In 1990 it became against the law for an employer not to hire a qualified person because of a disability. The ADA is also why we have curb cuts, electric doors, ramps, closed captioning and other accommodations.

DON'T FORGET

SAVE THE DATE!

What: Sprout Touring Film Festival

When: Saturday October 16, 2010

Where: Port Angeles High School
Auditorium

www.gospout.org

Making The Invisible Visible

Monday September 6th is Labor Day. The Post Office, Banks and Government offices will be closed.

Thursday September 9th is the DDAC meeting – Clallam County Courthouse, Commissioner's Meeting Room. Video teleconferencing available at Forks District Court if people would like to join in.

Monday October 11th is Columbus Day. The Post Office and Banks and some Government Offices will be closed.

Monday October 11th is DATO's meeting. 2:00 in the Terrace Room at 114 E. 6th Street in Port Angeles

Saturday October 16th The Sprout Film Festival 10:00 A.M. Port Angeles High School Auditorium

EVER HEAR OF A SURFICE DOG?



We're not talking about Service Dogs here; we're talking about Surfing dogs! One named Ricochet, a beautiful Golden Retriever.

When Ricochet was born she started service dog training right away with her human, Judy. Unfortunately, Ricochet's instinct to chase birds was way too strong and this made it too dangerous to be a service guide dog.

Judy was really disappointed; she had been training Ricochet since she was 13 days old. Judy knew that the dog had a lot to give, she just had to figure out what it was.

Ricochet had used a Boogie Board in a pool during her service dog training. Judy remembered how good Ricochet's balance was and a surfer dog was born. Judy says by focusing on what Ricochet could do rather than what she couldn't do, all sorts of possibilities came forward.

Ricochet became Rip Curl Ricki and took to the waves to do fundraising. Surfing for PAWS-abilities. Ricochet met Patrick a 15 year old who loved to ride the waves. Patrick was hit by a car when he was a child and had to use a wheelchair. Ricochet raised over \$8200 for Patrick so he could take part in a special physical therapy to help him walk.

Ricochet is still raising money and surfing for and with people. Judy says her goal for Ricochet was to help one person as a service dog. Now as a SURFice dog, Ricochet has helped many, many people. Judy feels she has learned to accept people and beings for who they are and not what she wants them to be.



**“Focus on what you CAN do”
– Ricochet the Surfer Dog**

THE ORCAS

Clallam County's Special Olympics teams, The Orcas, are bringing home the GOLD and the SILVER! Last weekend 2 Orcas won silver in golf and one person won gold in golf. The gold medal winner is entered in a drawing to go to the World Summer Games in Greece next year.

Thinking about joining the Orcas?

Bowling will begin the 2nd week of September. If anyone is interested and hasn't been involved with Special Olympics in the past OR if it has been over 3 years since they have been involved - please call Wendy at 360-477-4134.

Athletes MUST have a current Application for Participating on file to practice with the team.



IS THERE LIFE AFTER GROUP SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT?



Yes! There is life after Group Supported Employment! Just ask Stacey Shipley. The folks in Group Supported Employment (GSE) with Morningside took a hard hit this year when some contracts went to other agencies. That meant that the people in GSE would no longer have their jobs. Everybody wondered what was going to happen. Would Morningside find more GSE jobs?

After much thought, Morningside decided to find jobs in the community for people working individually, not in a group setting. Guess what? It works! Stacey Shipley started his new job at Lee Shore Boats and boy, do they love him and wow, he loves his new job. He is working 5 days a weeks and gets support from Morningside.

Lee Shore Boats likes that Stacey show up on time. They like that he is neat and clean. They like his positive attitude. Lee Shore Boats finds Stacey to be a great fit with their crew there.

Stacey is proud of the boats that are made there and he is very proud of his role in keeping the shop safe and clean for the workers. Stacey sweeps up the metal filings, makes sure one of the saws is clean and keeps the general rooms dirt free. He likes the people he works with and he likes his paycheck.

Yes, there is life after group and it is a good life.

DON'T FORGET! MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

On Saturday, October 16, the **Sprout Film Festival** is coming to Port Angeles all the way from New York City! The Sprout Films are movies made by, for and about people with developmental disabilities. Their goal is to *Make the Invisible Visible*.

The Film Festival is going to be at the Port Angeles High School Auditorium and will go all day long. Feel free to come for the whole day or for just part of the day. The Festival is **Free!!!**

There will be 3 blocks of 90 minutes of all different movies. Here is what the day looks like:

10:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. Films

11:30A.M. – 1:00 P.M. Break for Lunch

1:00 P.M. -2:30 P.M. Film

2:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Small Break

3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. The Sequim Marimba and Dance

4:30 P.M. – 6:00P.M. Break for Dinner

6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. Film

Come on up to the High School and enjoy great films. You will laugh, you will cry and you will be inspired! Remember, there is no charge and it is going to be a great time.



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Clallam County Health & Human Services
223 East Fourth Street, Suite 14
Port Angeles, WA 98362-3015

Got a Story? Got News? Contact Aimee Barton at
360-417-2407 or TheConnection@co.clallam.wa.us

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